

Remarks

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Detailed Action mailed 12/27/2007 and in light of the subsequent Advisory Action and Examiner Interview. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Office review and allow the current specification and claims.

In summary, claims 28 and 33 are canceled herewith thereby leaving claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23, 26, 29-31, 34-38, 40, and 69-73 are pending for consideration. Claims 10, 15, 18, 20, 23, 26, 40, and 73 stand independently. Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23, 40, and 69-73 have been allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Detailed Action rejected claims 26 and 38 as obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,264 to Fenton et al. when combined with U.S. Patent No. 5,687,737 to Branham et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,737,921 to Goldwesser. Claim 31 was rejected as unpatentable over Fenton et al., Branham et al., Goldwesser et al., and United States Patent No. 6,268,860 to Bonello. However, the Office objected to claims 28-30 and 33-37 and indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reliance on the Office's indication, the Applicant has herewith amended independent claim 26 to incorporate *verbatim* the limitations of objected-to claim 28, which has been canceled along with claim 33. Each of claims 29-31 and 34-38 either already depended or has been amended to depend from independent claim 26. No new issues have been raised. Since the Applicant has complied entirely with, and in full reliance on, the Office's stated indication of

allowability, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26, 29-31, and 34-38 are in condition for allowance in addition to already-allowed claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23, 40, and 69-73.

These amendments are made solely to expedite the allowance of the present application and should not be construed as an admission against the patentability of any canceled or amended subject matter.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now presented are patentable. With this in mind, the Office's reconsideration and allowance of the specification and remaining claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23, 26, 29-31, 34-38, 40, and 69-73 are respectfully requested.

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Detailed Action have been responded to fully. However, if, after consideration of the above amendments and comments, there remain any open issues in this application that possibly can be resolved by a telephone interview, then the Applicant's undersigned attorney most respectfully requests that he be called to discuss and attempt to resolve those issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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June 27, 2008
Date